

THE GOOD NEWS

THE NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH
February 2026

Washington Church Worship Ministers:

Ushers: Craig & Shari Hanson

NELC Worship Ministers:

Ushers: Jim Mutchler
David Sebekow

Washington WELCA Quilting and Business Meeting, 9 am, Friday, February 13.

NELC WELCA Business Meeting and
Installation of Officers, Monday, February 9 at
10 am.

Noisy offering on Sunday, February 8 will go to
Lutheran Disaster Relief for recovery in
Jamaica.

We will be having **SOUPerbowl Sunday**,
February 8. We will be collecting soups and
other canned goods for the Northwood Food
Pantry. Wear your favorite team shirt.

NELC Council Meeting, Sunday, February 8
following worship.

NELC still needs a two year and a three year
position for their Council. Prayerfully think about
in about volunteering, let President Karl Jodock
know if you are interested.

NEW Council Members

- New Council Members at Washington are:
Tom Mikelson and Gail Ducioame
- New Council Members at NELC are: Scott
Johnosn, Craig Olson

No Confirmation Classes during Lent
(February 18-April 1), but students are required
to attend Lenten worship services and help with
serving and cleanup at supper.

LENTEN Schedule

Each week of Lent, we will have a
light supper at 6 pm and worship at
7 pm

February 18 - (Ash Wednesday) NELC
February 25 - Washington
March 4 - NELC
March 11 - Washington
March 18 - NELC
March 25 - Washington



NO Dinner Church, Confirmation, or Youth Group Wednesday, February 4.

Schedule for the 10 am Thursday Bible Studies:

Feb 5 at Washington
Feb. 12 at NELC
Feb. 19 at Washington
Feb. 26 at NELC

Valentine's Day Meal and Music in Aneta.

Fancy dining with Chef Isan Adjari and music
by Herlof Huso. Saturday, February 14,
5-7 pm, at Sundahl Lutheran Church in Aneta,
ND. Prices are Adult (High School and up)
\$20.00; Kinder-Middle School \$15.00; and
Preschool and below \$10.00. Menu: Chicken
breast/marsala sauce, twice baked potato,
glazed carrots, dessert, bread and beverage.
RSVP by February 1 contact Joan
@701-371-0303. This fundraiser is for Red
Willow Ministries. It is also supported by
Thrivent

To show our appreciation to both congregations
of NELC and Washington, there will be a **ham
and scalloped potato dinner** at NELC
following worship, Sunday, February 15.

NELC needs \$17,368.75 a month to meet the
budget. Offering for December was \$19,308.00.

From Pastor Steve

Matthew 25:40-45

⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

Recently I used a line from this scripture as we ended one of our services. I generally just say go in peace and serve the Lord, but I wanted everyone to think about what serving the Lord actually means. Yes, you can serve people you know and go to places you are familiar with and help out, but that's not all God calls us to. As disciples of Christ, we are to go to the people and places that might make us uncomfortable, and that's generally because those people and those places are overlooked. It also means that whatever we do to people, we should remember that we are also doing it to Christ.

I've been thinking a lot about how Christians and the Church are behaving these days. In light of what is happening in the world around us, how are we responding? We used to believe that much of the bad was happening in far off places to people we don't know. That all changed in the last few weeks. I was at a conference in Alexandria, and we had to take care of our own rooms and towels and things while we were there. The conference center had been raided the day before by Immigration Services and a handful of their staff had been detained. I don't know much more details than that. I do know that because of this, the remaining staff was afraid to come to work, and the ones who did went about their work very fast so they could get back home to their families. I'm not here to get into a debate about immigration enforcement. What I want to talk about is how Jesus teaches us to treat people.

When those with power use it unwisely and make entire groups of people who are just minding their own business afraid to live their lives, that's when the scripture from Matthew 25 comes to mind. How are the least of these being treated? Many people who are immigrants to our country are just trying to make some kind of better life for themselves. The truth is that they fill many of the roles and do many of the jobs that most of us wouldn't ever consider doing. They are a vital part of the fabric that makes this country great, and they do not deserve to live in fear of doing things like taking their kids to school or going to the grocery store. Things we take for granted. Jesus in the scriptures is imploring everyone to treat each other well, because when you don't, you are mistreating him.

If you follow me on social media, you know that I have a great love for the city of Minneapolis and its people. I understand that some really don't like protestors and people who speak out about the injustice they see. Some of you probably tuned me out long ago for that very reason. I still love you by the way even if you don't agree with me. One of the things that has given me hope as I watch what is happening in Minneapolis is the helpers, and the clergy. Some of them are my friends. These people embody what it means to care for the least of these. Clergy are holding prayer vigils to comfort people in a very difficult time; they are opening their churches as sanctuaries for people if they need to warm up or get a meal. They are speaking and living out the Gospel in a situation where good news is desperately needed. They are caring for the least of these.

Mr. Rogers once told us to look for the helpers. The helpers are people who are doing whatever they can to support people in need and crying out for justice. I have seen videos of police, first responders, national guard members out in the middle of it with the people trying to help and be a calming presence. They are bringing stability to a chaotic situation.

Violence is never an answer. Making people afraid does not build trust and cooperation. If these are the tools you are using then according to Jesus, you might as well just crucify him yourself, because whatever you do to the least of these my brothers and sisters you do unto him. So, the question for all of you then is how are you treating people who are scared, upset, and do not have the means to defend themselves? Jesus was pretty clear on this, and we are followers of Christ. He might tell us to look at his example and then go and do likewise. Amen

Pastor Steve DeKrey

NELC Church Council

NELC Council Minutes Sunday, January 11, 2026 (unapproved)

Council Members Present: President Elect Karl Jodock, Pastor Steve DeKrey, Tim Mutchler, Nikki Korsmo, Wade Bilden, Bob Bilden, Angela Lyste, Ed Bina, and Lori Vivier

Pastor Steve opened the meeting at 11:59 am with a devotion. He wanted to make sure that we keep the great and positive momentum moving into 2026.

Secretary's report: Minutes from the meeting on December 14, 2025 were reviewed. Wade made a motion to approve the minutes; Tim second; Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report from December 2025 was reviewed. Nikki shared that our Live Streaming Account costs \$99/month and is currently funded through various donations and other means, but feels that it should be added to the budget. Bob made a motion to add \$1,200 to the Worship category in the budget for our Live Streaming account payments for the year. Tim second. Motion was approved. Ed made a motion to approve the December financial report; Tim second; December financial report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Property & Management: Bob is going to check on the Exit Signs to see if he can get them working again.

Music & Worship: No report.

Education: No report

Finance: No report

Pastor's Report: Last year was a good year; Summer trip to North Carolina planned and have 2 who will be going; The GF Conference Youth Night is on the 28th;

Sign-up sheets were sent out for parents for helping out with confirmation as well as making meals for Lent Services. Pastor Steve also shared that he has had several people ask if the financial report could be put in the newsletter as well as continue to put how much is needed each week for offering- these could both be done. Steve will be in Alexandria this week.

Old Business: None

New Business: GF Conference Youth Night January 28th- Steve has asked for a check for \$175 to contribute to the cost of the event. Bob made a motion to approve a \$175 check for the Conference- Tim second- Motion approved.

Nikki is signed up for a webinar: "Church Council Treasurer 101" February 9 at 6 pm

Craig Olson has agreed to join the council in one of the upcoming new positions.

Next NELC Council meeting date will be February 8th following church.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:28 pm.
Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Angela Lyste, Secretary

Gifts and Memorials

Washington Memorials

Grenville Stuart

To the Cemetery Fund: Craig & Shari Hanson

Delvin Gylten

To the Cemetery Fund: Mark Klevberg, Pete & Karen Naastad

Ostlie

To the Cemetery Fund: Gary & Joyce Ketchum

Greg Harvey

To the Cemetery Fund: Craig & Shari Hanson

Dawn Botsford donated to the Washington Cemetery

NELC Memorials

Jan Noblin

To the General Fund: Jane Tveit

Lenore Bilden Kaste

To the General Fund: Karen Larson

Steve Ostlie

To the General Fund: Jason & Heidi Gader

June Sanda

To the General Fund: Brian & Alane Jodock, Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Willard Pedersen

To the General Fund: Dawn Lawrence, Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Ruth Jacobson

To the General Fund: Renee Johnson, Virgil & Marcia Sheggerud, Jason & Heidi Gader

Bob Feters

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Marilyn Pederson

To the General Fund: Steve Aaker

Loren Amundson

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Vicki Anderson Odland

To the General Fund: Virgil & Marcia Sheggerud

Jean Skavlem

To the General Fund: Marie Christen

Mandi Skavlem

To the General Fund: Marie Christen

Pastoral Acts

Memorial Service
Ruth Jacobson
December 6, 2025

Transfer to NELC
Craig Olson

Northwood-Washington Lutheran Parish
P.O. Box 394
Northwood, ND 58267

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 3

Address Service Requested



STAFF OF NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH

Minister	Steve DeKrey	Custodians	Austin & Tera Brucker
Parish Assistant	Deb Aaland Office number 701-587-5381		-Washington Deb Aaland-NELC
Organists	Joan Huso-NELC Diane Nelson-Washington	Church E-mail	nelc@polarcomm.com

Pastor's office hours: 8 am - 2:30 pm, Monday & Tuesday; 8 am - 5 pm Wednesday;
8 am - 3 pm Thursday

Parish Assistant's office hours: 8:30 am to 3 pm Monday thru Friday

Sunday Worship services at Washington Church start at 9 am

Sunday Worship services at Northwood Evangelical Lutheran Church start at 11 am

The worship service is livestreamed on our website: northwoodwashingtonparish.org

NELC Council Members: Bob Bilden, Karl Jodock, Scott Johnson, Nicole Korsmo, Angela Lyste, Tim Mutchler Jr., Craig Olson, Lori Vivier

Washington Council Members: Annette Aird, Gail Ducioame, Craig Hanson, Chris Moore, Tom Mikelson, David Mullet